

**Open Lands Board
Minutes – Meeting #16
January 15, 2009
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the County Commissioners' Meeting Room**

I. Meeting Called to Order – Dan Walker –Chair, at 7:03 PM

A. Roll Call (See Attachment A, Roll Call Sheet)

Board Members:

Dan Dunagan – Present
Jim Ellingson – Present
Skip Kowlaski – Absent - Excused
Dan Kraft – Present
Gary Leese – Absent - Excused
Alan Maki – Present
Kent Meyers – Present
Mike Moore – Present
John Ormiston – Absent - Excused

Mike Pflieger – Present
Bobbie Roos – Present
Les Rutledge – Present
Tim Tackes – Absent - Excused
Dan Walker – Present

Planning Staff

Danielle High
Vanessa Morrell
Jon Wickersham

B. Review and approval of Minutes – December 18, 2008 Meeting

The minutes were approved as written.

Les mentioned that he would like to see public comment moved to either A or B in Section I of the agenda in the future.

C. Amendments to Agenda

Dan Walker proposed the following changes to the agenda: under new business he wanted to go over the BCC meeting for the passing of the Wood Family Ranch Conservation Easement and that Mike Pflieger and he would like to give a presentation.

D. Public comment – Items not on the agenda

There was no public comment.

II. Old Business

Dan Walker stated that it was time for the election of new Open Lands Board Officers, He and Mike Pflieger have been doing it for the past two years and he would not be upset if anyone else would like to take on that role.

Kent made a motion that Dan Walker remain as the Chair and Mike Pflieger remain as the Vice-Chair for 2009.

Mike Moore seconded the motion.

Mike Pflieger made the suggestion that the Board needs to think ahead to 2010 because he and Dan Walker would not be able to be the Chair and Vice- Chair again.

The vote was called; the Board voted unanimously to approve the motion as stated.

A. Education and Community Outreach Committee Report

Kent Myers said that the group is trying to get the word out about the bond money and educating the public on how the bond money is to be used. He stated that they are going to use more traditional ways of getting the information out such as an informational fair with the land trusts attending and maybe having their own website.

B. Conservation Committee Report

Mike Pflieger stated that he is ready for another project. He said that the more they can get, the better.

C. Report on the BCC meeting for the Wood Family Ranch

Dan Walker stated that this was a really positive process. He said that the Commissioners took the Board's recommendation and followed it. He also said the process the Board followed was very positive and worked very well. He said that the presentation that was given to the Commissioners from Gavin Ricklefs with the Bitter Root Land Trust was risky and that he and Mike Pflieger had not been informed beforehand. He stated that the staff report was brief and to the point and would have carried the message to the Commissioners and PowerPoint was not needed.

Gavin Ricklefs from the Bitter Root Land Trust replied that the Commissioners had asked for him to do a PowerPoint presentation. He said the criteria the Board used for the Wood Family Ranch works really well and will continue to work well with future projects. He stated that the Commissioners respect the views and recommendations of the Open Lands Board.

Mike Pflieger suggested that the OLB members, the participating land trust, and Staff create a presentation together.

III. New Business

A. Discussion on application review procedure: Taking a site visit before scoring the project

Dan Walker asked the Board if they all wanted to continue to be involved in the process or if they would like to delegate the duties to the committees.

The Board voted that they would all like to stay involved in the process.

Dan Walker asked if they would like to score the project first or take a site visit and then score the property.

Mike Pflieger suggested they keep it like they did last time, scoring the project first then going on the site visit, then making amendments to the scores. He said that it would be valuable to see how the scores change.

Alan Maki said that he thinks that it should be scored before the site visit because it makes you look at the data of the soil and water and not just because the land looks good.

Dan Walker asked for a vote to keep the criteria how it is.

The vote was called; the Board voted unanimously to keep the scoring method the same.

B. Discussion of Bell Family Ranch application

Dan Walker asked Gavin Ricklefs to give an overview of the Bell Family Ranch project.

Gavin Ricklefs from the Bitter Root Land Trust gave an overview of the Bell Family Ranch application.

IV. Ravalli Planning Staff: Updates and Report

Jon stated that he is now the main contact for the Open Lands Board. He noted it was Vanessa's last meeting.

V. Future meeting dates, proposed agenda items, and guest speakers

Next Scheduled Meeting – February 19, 2009 at 7:00 PM

VI. Adjourn

Dan adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.